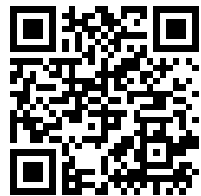

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HISTORY
OF THE
3RD REGIMENT, PUNJAB CAVALRY.

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OF THE

3rd Regiment, Punjab Cavalry.



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HISTORY

OF THE

3RD REGIMENT, PUNJAB CAVALRY.

1849. Orders for the raising and formation of the regiments of "the Punjab Irregular Cavalry" were issued by the Government on the 18th of April 1849, immediately after the annexation of the Punjab.

Officers appointed. The following officers were appointed to the 3rd Punjab Cavalry:—Lieutenant W. G. Prendergast, 8th Light Cavalry, Commandant; Lieutenant C. S. Weston, 36th B. N. I., 2nd in Command; Ensign W. Fane, 11th M. N. I., Adjutant; Assistant Surgeon E. C. Thorp, to the Medical charge.

Under orders issued by the Punjab Board of Administration the 3rd Punjab Cavalry was raised and organised at Lahore.

Raising and organization On the 16th May the regiment was reported to be complete to its full strength of

19 Native Commissioned officers;
60 „ Non-Commissioned officers;
6 Trumpeters;
500 Sowars.

Two hundred of the men were Sikhs who had not fought against the British Government since the Sutlej campaigns. The remainder of the regiment consisted of Hindustanis.

Station. Towards the latter end of May the regiment moved to Meean Meer and occupied the old lines of the Sikh Artillery.

1849. In July, under orders from the Board of Administration, the strength of the Sikhs in the regiment was reduced from 200 to ten per troop. The remainder were drafted into other regiments. In September emissaries of the great Sikh Gooroo, Maharaj Singh, commenced tampering with the Sikhs in order to obtain their assistance in rescuing the young Maharajah Duleep Singh. The

senior Sikh native officer Ressaldar Ruttan Singh, on being urged to join the conspirators, feigned acquiescence, but at once reported the matter to his Commanding officer, who laid the matter before the Board of Administration. Ressaldar Ruttan Singh was directed to obtain the confidence of the emissaries, and he consequently frequently attended their meetings. The Board having at length determined on seizing the conspirators in a body, Ressaldar Ruttan Singh, with Duffadar, afterwards Ressaïdar, Dull Singh and Sowar Bhan Singh, were employed to arrange the arrest of the conspirators. On the night of the 27th November a company of the 26th Native Infantry having seized all the outlets from the rendezvous, when at a preconcerted signal from Sowar Bhan Singh, Lieutenant Lambert of the 56th Native Infantry, with a few of his men, entered the Gooroo's house and took 9 men prisoners. For their services Ressaldar Ruttan Singh was given Rs. 1,000 and Dull Singh and Bhan Singh Rs. 200 each.

On the 5th December the regiment was inspected by the Marquis of Dalhousie, who expressed his approbation of the appearance and steadiness of the men on parade.

On the 25th December the regiment marched for Amritsar, where it arrived on 28th December.

1850.

On the 2nd of February the regiment turned out to suppress the mutiny of a detachment of the 66th Bengal Native Infantry quartered in the Govindghur fort. The men were disarmed and two guards of 30 men each left in the fort.

On the 28th March the regiment was inspected by Sir C. Napier, Commander-in-Chief, who expressed himself thoroughly satisfied with the steadiness of the men on parade and of the condition of the horses.

The following native officers were gazetted G. G. O., dated December 6th, 1850 :—

Ressaldar Ruttan Singh, Sikh.

„ Mahomed Shareef, Kabulee.

„ Charles Pigot, Eurasian.

Ressaïdar and W. M. Taleh Assadulla, Hindustani.

„ Shahzadah Sultan Jan, Doorani.

Ressaidar Essooree Sing, Brahmin.

„ Sheo Sing, Brahmin Sikh.

Naib-Ressaldar Ram Singh, Brahmin Sikh.

„ Sheikh Gurgoolla, Hindustani.

„ Morad Khan, Rohilla.

„ Chuttur Singh, Thakur.

„ Sodagur Singh, Sikh.

„ Kadur Khan, Kabulee.

Jemadar Sahibdeen Khan, Rohilla.

„ Dull Singh, Sikh.

„ Meah Jan, Rohilla.

„ Ally Must Khan, Rohilla.

„ Nadur Shah Rohilla.

„ Mahomed Shefat Khan, Rohilla.

1851.

On the 27th December the regiment proceeded *en route* to Muthankote, where it arrived on the 19th of February, and detachments were sent to Hurrund and Oomurkote to relieve detachments of the 4th Punjab Cavalry.

Asni having been selected as a site for a cantonment, the regiment marched on the 7th March to the village of Gamoo, the nearest point to Asni where water was procurable. On the 21st the regiment moved into cantonments. Detachments of various strength proceeded to establish posts between Hurrund to the north and Kin to the south of the district. The men of the regiment, especially the Sikhs, displayed an excellent soldier-like spirit in the manner in which they performed the various fatigue duties allotted to them.

1852-1853.

During this period detachments of the regiment repulsed several raids, inflicting heavy loss on the raiders and recovering stolen property. On three occasions, however, the detachments were repulsed by the raiders, who were in overwhelming numbers, the detachments leaving their dead in the hands of the raiders. During a successful attack on raiders, Goorcharnis and Lesharees between the posts of Hurrund and Drigri, Ressaidar Kadir Khan was killed, and though mortally wounded, killed three of the raiders before he fell.

In the autumn of 1852 over 300 horses died from liver complaint—an incurable disease called “Surra.”

1853. On the 17th November the regiment proceeded along the frontier road to Peyzoo *en route* to Bunnoo, arriving there on the 16th December—distance 324 miles.

In 1852 the regiment in a body volunteered for service in Burma; but the Governor-General, in expressing his satisfaction at the loyal and soldier-like feeling on the part of the men of the 3rd Punjab Cavalry, was prevented, by reason of the distance at which the regiment was stationed, and the particular service for which they were raised, from employing them on service in Burma.

1854. The regiment had little outpost duty to do. They required the rest owing to the great mortality among the horses in 1852-53. The height of the remounts was reduced from 14-2 to 14-1. In December the average height for 14-1 $\frac{3}{4}$.

1855. On 24th August the 5th troop under Ressaldar Chuttur Singh proceeded to Kohat to relieve the 4th Punjab Cavalry proceeding on service. This march of 80 miles was accomplished in 24 hours. The system of trotting and walking alternately was carried out. Three halts were made, in all 8 hours, when the horses were watered and fed. Thus the men were only 16 hours in the saddle, and the distance done at the rate of 5 miles an hour; out of 96 horses which started, only two failed to keep up, and they died near Bahadur Kheyl, 30 miles from Bunnoo.

On 15th November one squadron proceeded to Koolachi to support the detachment of the 1st Punjab Cavalry, holding the posts on the border near Tank.

1856. Major Gell, of the Bombay Army, having been appointed Commandant, joined the regiment on the 3rd May. Captain L. B. Jones and Lieutenant Bachelor resigned their appointments in the regiment.

1857. Fifty sabres under Lieutenant J. Watson accompanied the Bozdar expedition.

On the 5th April the regiment marched for Dera Ghazi Khan, where it arrived on the 27th April.

1858. The undermentioned native officers having failed to rejoin the regiment, being absent on leave when the mutiny of the Bengal Army broke out, were struck off the rolls of the regiment.

Ressaldar Charles Pigot.

„ Chutter Singh.

„ Nadur Shah Khan.

Ressaidar Ally Must Khan.

1859. On the 5th March the regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain, who expressed himself much pleased at the improvements which had taken place since Captain Gell assumed command.

Captain Gell, on his promotion to regimental Major, had to rejoin his regiment, and Major L. B. Jones was appointed Commandant, and joined on the 11th November.

1860. On the 2nd of March the regiment marched for Dera Ismail Khan. The head-quarters and a detachment took part in the expedition against Mahsood Waziris.

During the whole of 1860 the regiment was employed on the frontier blockading the Mahsood Waziris.

1861. On the 2nd February the regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain.

The Brigadier-General expressed to the British officers and all ranks of the regiment his approval of the zealous and soldierly manner in which the frontier duties had been conducted by the corps since the institution of the blockade in May 1860, and until the Mahsoods shall be compelled to submit to terms all ranks must continue to cheerfully submit to the exposure and continuously harassing duties inseparable from a blockade of the kind.

1862.

The regiment was inspected by His Excellency Sir Hugh Rose, Commander-in-Chief on the 10th February. Brigadier General Chamberlain communicated to the regiment His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's approval of the manner in which the arduous duty of preserving the peace of the Dera Ismail Khan frontier during the late blockade of the Mahsood Waziris had been carried out. The vigilance and endurance which all ranks have displayed in a harassing and fatiguing description of service are such as to entitle it to the expression of His Excellency Sir Hugh Rose's approval in the name of Her Majesty the Queen.

1863.

The regiment marched from Tank on the 26th, and arrived at Bunnoo on the 31st December.

1864.

Under the new organization, British officers were appointed to command squadrons, and the postings were as follows :

Major L. B. Jones, B. S. C., to be Commandant.

Lieut. A. Vivian, B. S. C., to be 2nd in Command and Squadron Officer.

Lieut. W. C. Anderson, 22nd B. N. I., to be 2nd Squadron Officer.

Lieut. J. D. Macpherson, 10th B. N. I., to be 3rd Squadron Officer.

Lieut. T. C. Plowden, G. L. I., to be Adjutant.

Lieut. G. F. Bryant, G. L. I., to be 2nd D. D. Officer.

The granting of good conduct pay, under the operations of G. G. O. No. 277 of 1864, was brought into force in the regiment from 1st May.

1866.

On the 3rd March the regiment arrived at Kohat in course of relief.

1867.

The regiment was inspected by the Brigadier-General on the 7th March.

1868.

The lace of the regiment was changed from silver to gold by B. O. No. 1 of 1868.

1869.

The regiment arrived at Rajanpore in course of relief on the 29th January.

- 1870.** The regiment was inspected on the 1st March by Brigadier-General T. Hughes, C. B.
- 1871.** The regiment marched on 27th December in
1872. course of relief, and arrived at Dera Ghazi Khan on the 5th January 1872.
- 1873.** By Government letter, Military Department, No. 766, dated 14th January, the regiment was permitted to retain its black leather appointments.
- 1875.** The regiment arrived in course of relief at Dera Ismail Khan on the 25th January.
The regiment was inspected on the 23rd July by the Brigadier-General.
- 1876.** The regiment was inspected by the Brigadier-General on the 15th March.
The regiment marched on 26th October, and arrived at Delhi on the 16th December, and took part in the proceedings of the Imperial Assemblage.
- 1877.** Ressaldar Major Jaffir Ally Khan was admitted to the 2nd Class of the Order of British India with the title of Bahadur.
The regiment returned to Dera Ismail Khan on the 14th March.
Between the 26th October 1876 and 14th March 1887 the regiment had marched nearly 1,200 miles, and during that period only 44 horses were admitted into hospital out of a strength of 399 sabres.
- 1878.** On the 7th March the regiment arrived in course of relief at Edwardesabad.
- 1879.** Colonel L. B. Jones, C. I. E., Commandant, while on Furlough on Medical certificate, died in London on the 5th July.
- 1880.** On the 15th March the regiment marched from Edwardesabad, and arrived at Kabul on the 8th April.
On the 8th of August the regiment forming part of the Force under Sir F. Roberts, K. C. B., V. C.,

marched for Kandahar, where it arrived on the 31st August, and took part in the action of Kandahar on 1st September. In this engagement the regiment lost—

1 horse killed ; 3 horses died of fatigue.

Lieutenant L. S. H. Baker, slightly wounded.

Duffadar Munsoor Khan, dangerously wounded ; since dead.

Sowars Baker Khan, Futteh Khan and Yusuf Khan, severely wounded, and Hyder Beg slightly.

Duffadar Burkut Ally was admitted to the 3rd Class Order of Merit.

On the 20th September the regiment commenced its return march to India, and on arrival at Sibi formed part of the Brigade under Sir C. MacGregor to punish the Murrees.

On the 9th November Lieutenant F. Mardall, Adjutant of the regiment, died of typhoid fever in the Murree country.

The regiment arrived at Kohat on the 28th December.

During the Afghan campaign the losses from sickness, &c., &c., were—

1 Ressaldar.
3 Duffadars.
11 Sowars.
25 Followers.
63 Horses.

1881. The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General T. G. Kennedy, C. B., on the 9th December.

1882. On the 26th January a wing of the regiment was detailed and proceeded to Edwardesabad to take up the duties of the 4th Punjab Cavalry, disbanded.

By Government Order No. 210, dated 22nd April, the strength of the regiment was augmented from 493 to 550 of all ranks.

1883. The regiment arrived at Rajanpore on the 29th December in course of relief.

1885.

On the 2nd January the regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Kennedy, C. B.

In April the regiment was warned for service and attached to the 1st Army Corps.

By G. O., dated 15th September, the strength of the regiment was increased by 75 sabres, and divided into four squadrons, and the constitution of the regiment was as follows :—

- 1 Commandant.
- 4 Squadron Commanders, including 2nd in Command.
- 4 Squadron Officers, including the Adjutant.
- 1 Medical Officer.
- 4 Ressaldars.
- 5 Ressaidars, including one Woordi Major.
- 8 Jemadars.
- 64 Duffadars, including 8 Kote Duffadars.
- 8 Trumpeters.
- 16 Farriers.
- 8 Shoota Sowars.
- 512 Sowars.

**Nominal roll of Officers permanently attached to the
Regiment since 1849.**

Rank and Name.	Last appointment held since joining.	Date of first appointment to Regiment.	REMARKS.
Major G. W. Prendergast	Commandant,	19th April 1849.	Resigned January 1855.
„ J. S. Gell ...	„	13th March 1856.	Since dead. Resigned November 1859.
Col. L. B. Jones, C.I.E.,	„	11th Novr. 1859.	Since dead.
„ A. Vivian ...	„	2nd February 1860	Died 5th July 1879.
„ W. C. Anderson, C.B.	„	18th April 1861.	Retired in May 1884.
Capt. C. S. Western ...	2nd in Command	19th April 1849	Resigned April 1853.
„ C. Batchelor ...	„	11th March 1851	„ July 1856.
General J. Watson, V. C.,	„	14th February 1855	Transferred to 1st Punjab
K. C. B. ...	„	17th Decr. 1856	Cavalry 2nd January 1857.
Col. W. Fane ...	„		Transferred to 19th B.L., 1st
Lieut.-Col. J. D. Macpher- son ...	„	7th March 1864	November 1859. Since dead.
Captain R. B. Lockwood	Sq. Commandant	7th June 1864	Died May 1880.
Major J. Davidson ...	„	2nd July 1866	
Captain F. Bertie ...	„	11th June 1867	Retired in 1873.
Major W. Scott ...	„	2nd June 1869	Resigned in 1870.
„ J. B. Watts ...	„	19th May 1884	
Captain C. C. Egerton ...	„	13th July 1871	
„ C. G. Mansels ...	„	2nd June 1882	
„ W. Lambert ...	Squadron Officer	13th June 1879	
Col. W. Crispin ...	Adjutant	16th April 1855	Transferred to 5th Punjab
„ B. Ryan ...	„	13th August 1858	Cavalry in 1858. Since
„ S. Jarret ...	Doing Duty	15th May 1859	dead. Resigned in December 1862.
Capt. F. Danvers ...	Officer.	2nd July 1856	Since dead.
Major F. Bryant ...	„	11th Decr. 1863	Transferred to 1st Punjab
Lieut.-Col. T. C. Plowden	Adjutant	7th March 1864	Cavalry, February 1864.
Lieut. F. Maddall ...	„	3rd March 1875	Transferred to 1st Punjab
„ P. Beresford ...	Squadron Officer	16th Decr. 1877	Cavalry in 1858. Since dead.
„ E. Inglis ...	Adjutant	5th May 1883	Resigned in 1865.
„ L. S. H. Baker ...	„	6th June 1878	Transferred to Civil in 1867.
„ L. F. Priestly ...	Squadron Officer	5th June 1882	Died in October 1880.
„ F. O. Anderson ...	„	7th August 1883	Retired in 1881.
Dy. Surg. General G. C.	„		Transferred to Civil, July
Thorp ...	Medical Officer	19th April 1849	1886.
Surgeon W. Depratt ...	„	5th May 1854	Resigned in 1854.
„ R. Rouse ...	„	2nd February 1860	Died in England 1859.
„ O. T. Duke ...	„	27th June 1873	Transferred to Civil in 1873.
„ J. Duke ...	„	6th June 1877	„ „ 1877.
„ J. G. Hancock ...	„	2nd April 1885	„ „ 1884.
„ S. J. Bigger ...	„	10th April 1886	„ to 5th Punjab Caval- ry in 1886.

